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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,203	10/20/2003	Siegfried Schulte		4463

7590 12/06/2004  
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EXAMINER	
ZARROLI, MICHAEL C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2839	

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/689,203	SCHULTE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael C. Zarroli	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is a duplicate of claim 1 including legalistic language. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: In line 4 the phrase “perpendicular of the line” should read –perpendicular to a line--. Also, in claim 1 there is an antecedent problem with “the limbs.” Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claim 2 objected to because of the following informalities: There is an antecedent problem with “their base” in line 3. Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 4 objected to because of the following informalities: There is an antecedent problem with “whose profiled projections” in lines 3 and 4. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Miller.

Miller discloses an electrical socket outlet having two rectangular plug-in openings (50), whose broad sides are aligned parallel to one another (fig. 5), and having a grounding opening (51) lying on the center perpendicular of the line connecting the plug-in openings, the socket outlet comprising a plug-in shell (11) and a bottom shell (8 & 9), wherein slots in the plug-in shell (fig. 3 top) accommodate essentially straight contact rails (5 & 7) and a likewise essentially straight grounding rail (6), each having a U-shaped cross section (47, 48 & 49), wherein the free ends of the limbs of the contact rails and the grounding rail point toward the plug-in openings and the grounding opening (figures 4 & 9), and wherein limbs of the contact rails and the grounding rail are supported on both sides of the slots by transverse webs (fig. 3 top & fig. 9).

Regarding claim 2 Miller discloses that the contact rails and the grounding rail each have in their base, cutouts (47, 48 & 49) that are aligned with the plug-in openings or with the grounding opening (fig. 3).

Regarding claim 3 Miller discloses that the transverse webs are provided in the region of the plug-in openings and the grounding opening (fig. 3 top inside 42).

Regarding claim 4 Miller discloses that the lower shell comprises; a rectangular bottom plate (figures 6 & 8) having transverse walls whose profiled projections support and align the contact rails and the grounding rail (fig. 9).

Regarding claim 5 Miller discloses that guides, matching accommodating profiles of a profile system that accommodates the socket outlet, are formed on the sidewalls of the upper shell (fig. 5).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 5-8 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In combination with claims 1 and 5 claim 6 specifically the gripper for connecting further socket outlets.

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Coyle Jr. et al, Luu and, Fladung teach upper and lower shells, guide rails and sockets.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Zarroli

Application/Control Number: 10/689,203  
Art Unit: 2839

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Zand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "Z" at the end.

Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

Handwritten initials "MCZ" in black ink, with a stylized "C" that loops back to the "M".

MCZ